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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

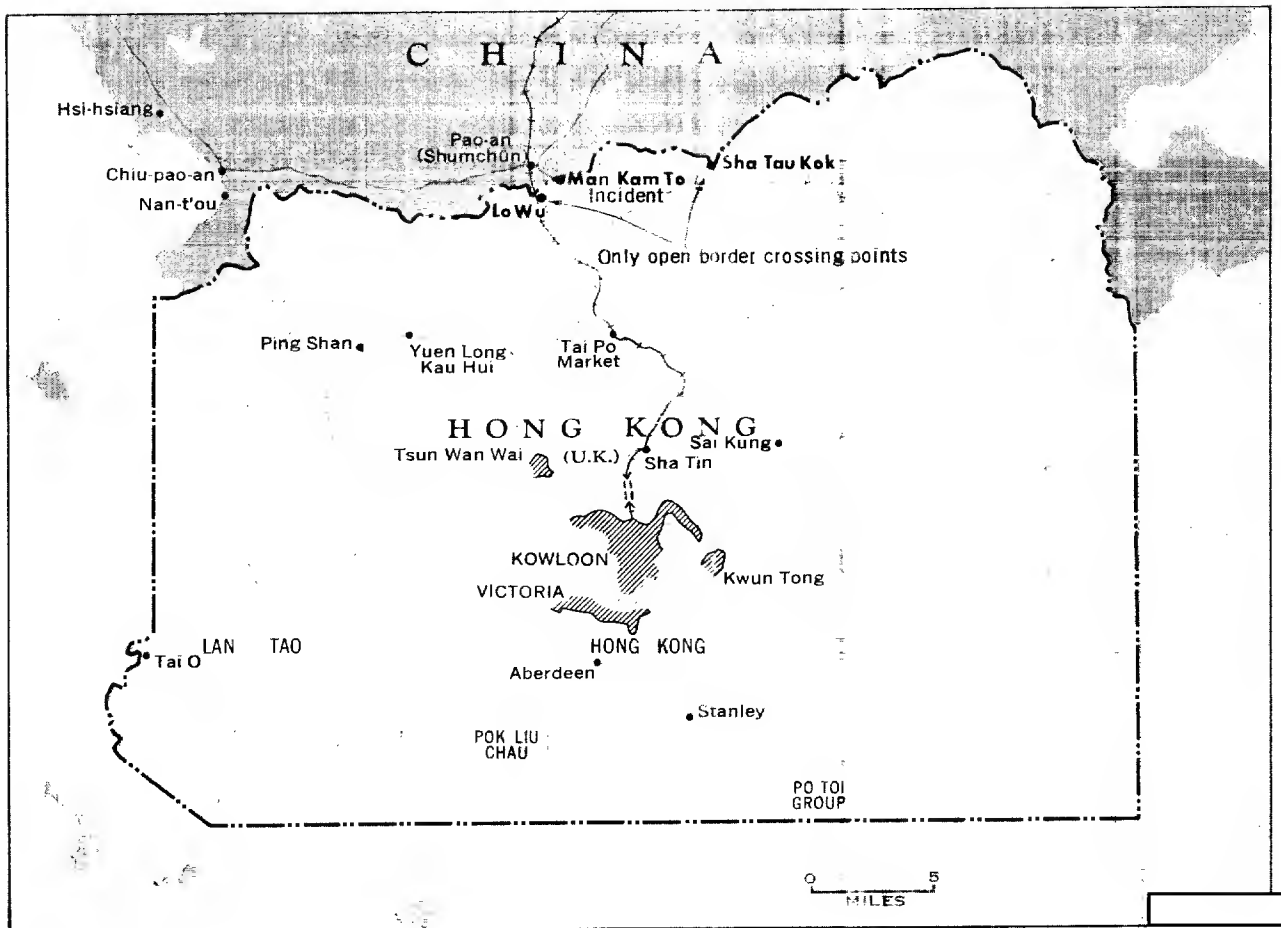
North Vietnam: Large-scale US air attacks were carried out against the principal rail and highway bridge across the Red River at Hanoi on 11 August. A preliminary review of strike photography tends to confirm earlier pilot reports that one span of the mile-long bridge was dropped and that several other hits were made on the bridge and its approaches. (Map)

South Vietnam: A major new search-and-destroy operation began early on 11 August in the coastal flatlands about 25 miles south of Da Nang. The combined US Marine - South Vietnamese Army sweep--codenamed COCHISE--is designed to destroy Communist forces believed to be concentrated in the hills near the border between Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces.

The area of operations is believed to contain more than 5,000 men of the North Vietnamese Army 2nd Division. No contact with the enemy was reported during the first day of the scheduled three-week operation.

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Hong Kong - Communist China: The British authorities have virtually closed the border with Communist China in an effort to prevent frontier incidents from spreading.

Following sporadic harassing actions at Man Kam To on 11 August, a number of Chinese crossed into the colony and attacked a police post. The Chinese forced a British officer to sign an agreement, later repudiated, accepting Communist demands for removal of border obstacles and compensation to a Chinese for alleged injuries.

*About 100 Communist Chinese today crossed the border at Sha Tau Kok which remained open and clashed with British troops. This incident probably will compel the Hong Kong authorities to close this section of the border also.

The Communists within Hong Kong are continuing sporadic bombing and isolated mob violence, despite police pressure on the terrorist apparatus by raids on suspected centers of this activity. Although an upsurge of violence followed the serious border incident in early July, there is as yet no indication of response in Hong Kong to the latest incursion.

Chinese Red Guards are obstructing the shipment of food supplies to the colony, although there are as yet no serious food shortages. Peking's propaganda is still underscoring the role of the local Communists in the struggle, and has avoided specific commitments. [REDACTED]

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*Peru: The continuing failure of Congress to reconvene may open the door to possible intervention by the military.

The dispute over the allocation of key Senate posts between the government and the opposition coalition has paralyzed legislative activity since 28 July. The impasse reportedly is beginning to have noticeable unsettling political and economic effects. The military leaders have thus far avoided intervening in what they consider to be a political dispute, but there are increasing rumors that they are becoming impatient.

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NOTE

Congo (Kinshasa): The rebels' "Government of Public Safety," announced in Bukavu on 10 August, may be largely a propaganda ploy intended to force Mobutu into recognizing rebel strength in the eastern Congo. Many of the mercenaries probably want only safe passage out of the country for themselves and the Katangans, and may be willing to give up their new "government" in exchange. The Katangan gendarmerie, however, have no place to go and may be completely sincere in their attempt to take over the Congo. [REDACTED]

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